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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 001231

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/ELA AND DRL/NESCA
NSC FOR KUMAR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/01/2029

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SUBJECT: COURT SENTENCES JOURNALIST TO PRISON TERM FOR
DEFAMATION

REF: A. CAIRO 284 B. CAIRO 180 C. CAIRO 70 D. 08 CAIRO 2152 E. 08 CAIRO 2122 Classified By: Economic-Political Minister-Counselor William R. St
1.(C) On June 24, Cairo Criminal Court sentenced independent newspaper editor Yasser Barakat to six months in prison and fined him LE 20,000 (3
2.(C) Barakat's lawyer Gamal Eid told us the judge was "biased" and that his ruling was "unacceptable." Eid predicted this would be the first c
3.(C) Comment: The court's ruling against Barakat breaks a 10-month pattern of courts fining journalists, but not handing down jail terms, foll